

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
ACDA-07 SAJ-01 EB-07 CU-02 /088 W  
-----150758Z 053915 /12

R 141527Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3935  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 5092

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GE, US  
SUBJ: GRUNERT COMMENTS ON US/GDR RELATIONS

REFS: A) BERLIN 5065; B) STATE 6345; C) BERLIN 5085

### SUMMARY:

ON JANUARY 12 GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT SPOKE IN POSITIVE, IF LARGELY GENERAL, TERMS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF US/GDR RELATIONS. WITH RESPECT TO CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS, HE GAVE NO INDICATION WHEN THEY MIGHT BE READY TO HAND OVER A COUNTERDRAFT. HE SAID THEIR MAIN EFFORT AT PRESENT IN THIS AREA WAS TO FIND SOME LANGUAGE FORMULA WHICH WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE FACT THAT USG HAD NEVER RECOGNIZED FRG RIGHT TO REPRESENT ALL GERMANS WHICH WOULD NOT SET PRECEDENT IN CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SUPPORTED THE FRG CONTENTION. THIS APPEARS TO BE A DIFFERENT EXPLANATION OF TACK GDR IS TAKING THAN WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE. HE SAW PROGRESS IN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN 1977 BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. GRUNERT SAID 1963 GDR LAW REQUIRING ALL

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GDR CITIZENS TO HAVE MFA APPROVAL BEFORE ENTERING DIPLOMATIC PREMISES WOULD NOT APPLY TO US CHANCERY SINCE WE WERE PROTECTING US INTERESTS, UNLIKE THE FRG, WHICH IS MEDDLING IN GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING LUNCH WITH CHARGE JANUARY 12, GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT SPOKE IN POSITIVE VEIN ABOUT

US/GDR RELATIONS AND THEIR POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. HE ADVOCATED A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, ASSERTING THAT NO ONE ON THE GDR SIDE HAD EXPECTED STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS.

2. ON THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION, GRUNERT SAID THE GDR HAD A CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL VIEW THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE POLICY OF DETENTE. THE MAIN ISSUE WAS, OF COURSE, THE SALT TALKS WITH THE USSR. WHILE THE GDR WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED, IT WAS UNINTERESTED, AS A SMALL COUNTRY, IN THEIR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. A SALT AGREEMENT WOULD, IN THE GDR'S VIEW, HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON OTHER ASPECTS OF US/USSR RELATIONS, WITH A POSITIVE SPILLOVER IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN GENERAL.

3. CHARGE NOTED THAT, WHILE HE HAD SEEN GDR PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON US/USSR RELATIONS AND SALT NEGOTIATIONS, HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY OVERALL, PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THERE HAD BEEN A PIECE IN THE JANUARY 1977 ISSUE OF DEUTSCHE AUSSENPOLITIK ON THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS WHICH APPEARED TO BE CRITICAL OF THE US ELECTION SYSTEM, ANALYZING IN STANDARD MARXIST TERMINOLOGY THE MANNER IN WHICH "BIG BUSINESS" MANIPULATES THE MEDIA, ETC. AND HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" TO MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD. GRUNERT SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE ARTICLE, ADDING THAT ONE COULD NOT EXPECT THE AUTHORS TO MAKE ANY ASSESSMENT

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OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE ARTICLE HAD BEEN WRITTEN BEFORE THE ELECTIONS WERE HELD. (IT WAS, IN FACT, SIGNED TO THE PRESS ON NOVEMBER 26.) IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY ABOUT THE UTILITY OF HAVING A GENERAL ASSESSMENT IN THE PRESS OF HOW THE GDR VIEWS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, THE CHARGE SAID HE WOULD FIND IT INTERESTING.

#### 4. CONSULAR CONVENTION

IN DISCUSSING CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS, GRUNERT GAVE THE IMPRESSION THE GDR WAS STILL LOOKING FOR A FORMULA THAT WOULD SATISFY BOTH SIDES ON THE MATTER OF NATIONALITY. HE SAID THE GDR WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE USG HAD NEVER FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE FRG POSITION THAT IT HAD THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT ALL GERMANS. SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD DONE SO. THE PROBLEM FOR THE GDR WAS TO FIND SOME WAY TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE A "LOOSER" FORMULATION WITH THE US WHICH WOULD

NOT AT THE SAME TIME SET A PRECEDENT IN THE GDR'S  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THOSE WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS  
THAT HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED THE FRG POSITION. GRUNERT  
DID NOT, AS GEYER HAD CLAIMED EARLIER, ASSERT THAT THE  
GDR COUNTERDRAFT WAS ALL SET AND THAT IT WAS MERELY  
A MATTER OF AMBASSADOR KLOBE'S BUSY SCHEDULE THAT  
WAS HOLDING UP THE HANDLING OVER OF THEIR DRAFT. GRUNERT  
DID NOT INDICATE WHEN WE COULD EXPECT A COUNTERDRAFT,  
AND THE CHARGE DID NOT PRESS HIM.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BERLIN 5092

## 5. CULTURAL RELATIONS

GRUNERT EXPRESSED HIMSELF POSITIVELY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF US/  
GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS. HE SAID WE COULD TAKE AS GIVEN THE  
IDEA OF A FILM RETROSPECTIVE AND THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT.  
THEY WERE ALSO IN FAVOR OF MOVING AHEAD ON THE SEMINAR  
OF AMERICAN LITERATURE AND LOOKED POSITIVELY ON THE IDEA  
OF A US MUSICAL GROUP. HE EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT  
THAT THE GDR WAS NOT READY YET FOR DISCUSSION ON THE  
IREX AGREEMENT, GIVING THE IMPRESSION THE REASONS WERE  
TECHNICAL RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE. (ON THE EVENING OF  
JANUARY 13, CHARGE RAN INTO MFA CULTURAL DIVISION OFFICIAL  
BETTIN, WHO SAID THAT HE WOULD BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH  
EMBASSY WEEK OF JANUARY 17-22 ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS,  
AND ADDED SOMEWHAT PLAINTIVELY THAT WE COULD BE DOING  
MORE IN THE CULTURAL AREA.)

## 6. CSCE

GRUNERT TOUCHED LIGHTLY, POSITIVELY, BUT WITHOUT  
GOING INTO DETAIL, ON THE CHARGE'S APPROACH OOMFA PLANNING CHIEF BOCK  
(BERLIN 5023). GRUNERT SAID  
THE SUBSTANCE AND METHOD SUGGESTED IN THE APPROACH  
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WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE ADDED THAT THE VARIOUS  
CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION SUGGESTED COULD BE USED  
AS WE HEAD TOWARD BELGRADE AND WENT ON TO MENTION  
SPECIFICALLY THAT, "FOR EXAMPLE", SOMEONE AT BOCK'S  
LEVEL COULD OF COURSE GO TO WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER TALKS.

#### 7. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

GRUNERT SINGLED OUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF US/GDR TRADE  
TIES AS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT AREA WHERE BOTH  
SIDES COULD MAKE PROGRESS IN 1977. BUT HE DID NOT  
APPEAR TO WISH TO GO INTO ANY SPECIFICS.

#### 8. GDR CITIZENS ACCESS TO US CHANCERY

DURING A DISCUSSION OF PROGRESS WE WERE MAKING CONCERNING  
PREPARATION FOR MOVING TO THE NEW CHANCERY, CHARGE SAID  
WE HAD NOTED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT FRG PERMANENT  
MISSION REPRESENTATION AND GDR PUBLIC REFERENCES TO A  
1963 LAW THAT REQUIRED GDR CITIZENS TO RECEIVE APPROVAL  
BEFORE ENTERING DIPLOMATIC PREMISES. WE HAD ALSO NOTED  
REFERENCES IN THE FRG CASE TO ALLEGATIONS OF  
INTERFERING IN GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND CHARGE  
WONDERED IF GRUNERT CARED TO ELABORATE.  
GRUNERT SAID QUICKLY AND SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE 1963  
LAW WOULD NOT APPLY TO THE US EMBASSY. THE EMBASSY  
WAS THERE TO PROTECT "US INTERESTS" AND THEREFORE  
THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF DENIAL OF ACCESS. CHARGE SAID THAT  
PART OF QUESTION OF PROTECTING US INTERESTS AND OF  
DEVELOPING US/GDR RELATIONS MEANT WE WOULD BE  
RECEIVING GDR CITIZENS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, PROVIDE  
INFORMATION, AND DEVELOP PROGRAMS. GRUNERT REITERATED  
WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH "PROTECTING US  
INTERESTS," SINCE WE WERE NOT TRYING TO INTERFERE  
IN GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS THE WAY THE FRG IS.

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9. GRUNERT THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE FRG MATTER  
WAS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. THEY WERE INTERFERING IN GDR

INTERNAL AFFAIRS, CLAIMING THAT THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT ALL GERMANS. THE GDR COULD NOT TOLERATE THIS. THIS WAS THE ONLY POINT IN THE CONVERSATION AT WHICH GRUNERT BECAME SOMEWHAT EXCITED.

10. CHARGE NOTED BRIEFLY THERE HAD BEEN SOME RECENT GDR MEASURES WHICH COULD NOT HELP BUT NEGATIVELY AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, TO WHICH GRUNERT NODDED, INDICATING HE UNDERSTOOD, AND THEN MOVED ON TO OTHER MATTERS.

11. ICBP

CHARGE ASKED GRUNERT IF HE KNEW WHERE MATTER STOOD CONCERNING AMBASSADOR COOPER'S REQUEST TO GRUNERT TO PASS ON TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS SMITHSONIAN SECRETARY RIPLEY'S INTEREST IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF BIRD PROTECTION (STATE 3864). GRUNERT SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION HE HAD SEEN SOME CORRESPONDENCE ON THE MATTER SINCE THE NEW YEAR AND THAT "EVERYTHING WAS ON THE TRACKS." HE COULD NOT REMEMBER THE DETAILS, BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND INFORM THE EMBASSY.

12. COMMENT: APART FROM GRUNERT'S RELAXED AND POSITIVE REMARKS ABOUT US/GDR RELATIONS AND ASSERTION THAT 1963 LAW WOULD NOT APPLY TO US, THE MOST NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF HIS REMARKS RELATED TO THE MATTER OF THE CONSULR CONVENTION. WE HERE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE GDR HAS BEEN SO EXPLICIT IN SAYING THAT THEIR PROBLEM IS IN FINDING SOMEWAY TO ACCOMMODATE FACT THAT WE HAVE NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED FRG RIGHT TO REPRESENT ALL GERMANS. IF THEY ARE, IN FACT, SEEKING LANGUAGE THAT SOME HOW WOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT, WE ARE NOT CERTAIN IT  
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WOULD MEET OUR POSITION, BUT SEE NO REASON TO SPECULATE UNTIL WE SEE THE LANGUAGE OF A COUNTERDRAFT.POLANSKY

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